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SUBJECT: Haiti Response to Action Request: Demarche on
Country-Specific Resolutions at the UNGA

REF: SECSTATE MRN 116264

¶1. (SBU) In response to reftel action request, on Tuesday November 17, Ambassador Merten and poloff met with Marie-Michele Rey, Haiti's Minister of Foreign Affairs to convey the reftel talking points and request Haiti's support as outlined in the reftel. Rey acknowledged that the Iran situation is serious and that she could not imagine that Haiti would not support the USG and the government of Canada (GOC) in the upcoming votes in the Third Committee and in the UNGA. However, Rey said that she must consult with President Preval and would recommend a position in support of the USG and the GOC.

¶2. (SBU) The GOC Ambassador to Haiti, Gilles Rivard, visited with Rey on the subject earlier in the day. Rivard informed Ambassador Merten that he had received the same response from Rey. (Note: Ambassador Rivard had originally planned to discuss the matter at a meeting with Preval later in the day, but that meeting did not take place. End note.)

¶3. (SBU) Following Ambassador Merten's meeting with Rey, Ambassador Merten called President Preval's advisor Gabriel Verret and conveyed the reftel message. Verret said he would relay the USG request to President Preval, but that he was not sure what position Preval would take on the issue. Verret added, however, that his intervention last year resulted in Preval's support of the USG position in opposition to a "no action" motion.

¶4. (SBU) Wednesday, November 18 was a Haiti national holiday and GOH offices were closed. Today (Thursday, November 19) poloff was unable to obtain a response from the Haiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The political counselor for the Canadian Embassy in Haiti, Adam Barratt, advised poloff that the Canadian Embassy had also not received a response from the GOH. At the present time, President Preval is out of the country and in Miami. Post will advise upon receipt of a response from the GOH.

MERTEN